



October 2005

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## • **Legislative Update**

-Congress returned from summer recess on September 6th.

### **Introduced:**

-On September 14, H.R. 3775 (James P. McGovern, D-MA), to provide for the update of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the **John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor**, to extend the authority of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize a special resource study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of a national park unit within the Corridor.

-On September 19, S. 1721 (Voinovich, R-OH), to increase spending authorizations and extend the sunset date by 15 years to 2027 for the nine heritage areas designated in the **Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996**. S. 1721 would also designate the **Mississippi River National Heritage Area**, comprised of the counties and parishes adjacent to the River, and extend the authority of the **Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor** Commission, appropriate additional funds, and authorize an update of the plan that considers the findings and recommendations of the Blackstone Sustainability Study.

### **Scheduled Hearings:**

-On September 29, House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks (Pearce) will hold a hearing on H.R. 326 (Grijalva), to amend the **Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area** Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance under that Act.

-For list of legislation currently introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/LEG/introbills109.pdf>

## • **News from the Washington Office**

-The Washington office is pleased to welcome Rosemary Prola to our office during the Fall 2005 semester. Rosemary is currently pursuing a Masters degree from the University of Maryland's Historic Preservation Program. She holds undergraduate degrees in communications and American studies and has experience as a publications manager and director. During the Fall, Rosemary will be researching projects and programs occurring in

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the national heritage areas and compile a series of case studies that describe the kinds of work that heritage areas do. The final document will include a discussion about the criteria for choosing best practices and what can be learned about heritage development from the research and project examples. Project narratives will also be included in the NPS Advisory Board's final report on the *Future of the National Park Service in the National Heritage Areas*.

## ● Update on Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

-The cultural community is mounting a response to Hurricane Katrina's impact on the historic and cultural collections along the Gulf Coast. The Sun Herald reported that 5,014 buildings have been lost in Biloxi alone--that's one fifth of all buildings, and more will be condemned. More information on the condition of the material cultural heritage and efforts to respond can be found at the following websites:

**American Association of Museums** (information on the status of cultural, historical and museums sites): <http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm>

**Heritage Preservation** (Task Force updates and tools for recovering from the damage--funding sources, rehabilitation resources): <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/>

**American Library Association** (status of libraries in the region): [http://www.ala.org/al\\_onlineTemplate.cfm?Section=alonline&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=103278](http://www.ala.org/al_onlineTemplate.cfm?Section=alonline&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=103278)

**National Trust** (providing a relief fund for rehabilitation of properties damaged by the hurricane; assembling reconnaissance teams): <http://www.nationaltrust.org>

**FEMA** is hiring 15-20 Historic Preservation Specialists to work as part of FEMA's environmental and historic preservation cadre of reservists. The National Trust and AASLH are also assembling reconnaissance teams to look at historic sites and collections.

The *people of the Gulf region*, professionals in the cultural heritage field have reminded us, are an integral part of the region's cultural heritage, identity, and revival. While the damage to buildings and institutions of cultural significance might be easier to see and seem easier to fix, the stories and experiences of Gulf people are as vitally important, and arguably more so, to the region's identity and its rebirth as the tangible heritage to which the cultural community is responding.

-Among other new funding sources recently established, Americans for the Arts has established the **Americans for the Arts Emergency Relief Fund**, a permanent fund developed to provide timely financial assistance to areas impacted by a major disaster for the purpose of helping them rebuild the arts in their communities. Created with an initial contribution of \$100,000 from Americans for the Arts' reserves, the relief fund will distribute support directly to local arts agencies to assist with their own recovery or to provide services and funding to local nonprofit arts groups and individual artists and to other relief efforts dedicated to helping the arts. One-hundred percent of the contributions to the Emergency Relief Fund will go directly to these efforts. To learn more about eligibility, how to apply, or to make a donation, visit the Americans for the Arts website at [http://ww3.artsusa.org/get\\_involved/emergency\\_relief\\_fund/default.asp](http://ww3.artsusa.org/get_involved/emergency_relief_fund/default.asp)

## ● This Month in the Heritage Areas

-The **Centennial of Practical Flight** is an event being produced jointly by the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB and the Aviation Heritage Foundation (the management entity for the **National**

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**Aviation Heritage Area**) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' most important flight as they perfected powered flight.

On October 5, a replica of the Wright Flyer III, first flown at Huffman Prairie Flying Field in July 2005 as a key component of an NPS funded film for the Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP, is planned, among other events throughout the day. The replica was built by Mark Dusenberry, a citizen who appreciated and was inspired by the work of the Wrights. Mark, with his own funding, hand built this aircraft, as a precise replica over the past several years at his farm in eastern Ohio.

This centennial marks one of the key accomplishments of the Wright brothers and the development of aviation. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Lynn Scarlett has been invited to attend the event.

-The **Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor** is currently undergoing a Sustainability Study to help the Corridor assess its management structure, accomplishments, leveraging impacts, and way of working. The study report will identify key ingredients of success and present management options for the future. The study is being conducted by the National Park Service Conservation Study Institute (CSI). The study team will make a presentation on its progress to the Corridor Commission and non-profit Board at their next meeting on October 14. Project advisors representing the National Park Service, the Schuylkill River NHA and University of Pennsylvania will provide advice and input during the study progress. Corridor management will present a draft report of the study's findings to their Congressional delegation in early February, and a final report is expected in early Spring.

## ● News from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

-The Alliance held a workshop at the 2005 National Preservation Conference in Portland, Oregon entitled **"Heritage Areas: The Basics of Getting Started"**. The workshop was coordinated by the Heritage Development Institute (HDI), a training initiative of the Alliance that introduces participants to the heritage areas strategy through presentations by and interaction with heritage area directors and Alliance and NPS staff. The all-day workshop was attended by almost 40 participants from around the country. Participants learned about the NPS role in heritage areas, partnership strategies, engaging people in telling their stories, and capacity building and engaged in roundtable discussions with faculty. For more information on the HDI, visit their website at <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>

-The **2005 National Preservation Conference** was well-attended by heritage area directors and staff. A session entitled **"Creating Marketing Strategies"** featured the increasing popularity of "Doors Open" events around the world, including, at last, the United States. Kate Fox of Essex National Heritage Area demonstrated the success and outcomes of their Trails and Sails event and Steve Stowell from the city of Lowell presented on the nuts and bolts of their Doors Open Lowell event.



What started over twenty years ago in France as an annual event to celebrate local cultural heritage has now traveled to about 40 countries around the world. At Doors Open events, which are coordinated locally or regionally and marketed to residents, dozens or even hundreds of public and private cultural, natural and historic sites open their doors to the public for free over the span of one or two weekends in the spring or fall. Participating sites often provide special programming, guided or thematic tours, rare opportunities to view restricted rooms or

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artifacts, and/ or demonstrations. In Canada and many European Countries, a national agency or organization provides marketing tools and planning resources to assist local coordinators with implementing their event and encouraging greater participation, and the whole country celebrates during the same weekend every year. In the U.S., New York City, the Niagara region, Denver, Lowell, and several heritage areas, including Essex, Upper Housatonic, Hudson Valley, and Quinebaug and Shetucket (which is hosting its 15<sup>th</sup> annual event this year), host such events, but there is little coordination or information sharing among sponsors. The panel presentation, which advocated more Doors Open events and more collaboration, was received enthusiastically, leaving little doubt that we will be seeing more of this kind of event around the U.S. in the future.

-The 2006 National Preservation Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, home to Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas will consider opportunities to provide conference goers with ways to explore the Rivers of Steel region.

## ● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-The U.S. Forest Service seeks pre-proposals for Challenge Cost-Share grants under the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The pre-proposal Deadline is November 1, 2005, followed by the full Proposal Deadline on February 22, 2006. The total amount available is \$1 million. A cost-share ratio of 50:50 (other federal funds cannot be used as match) is required. All non-federal entities (no individuals) are eligible. The program seeks to establish sustainable urban and community forests by encouraging communities of all sizes to manage and protect their natural resources for this and future generations. It supports urban and community forestry projects that have national or widespread significance in their impact or application. Tree planting projects are not eligible for funding.

For a full announcement and a summary of FY2006 funding priorities, visit [http://treelink.org/nucfac/2006\\_CCS\\_RFP.doc](http://treelink.org/nucfac/2006_CCS_RFP.doc) . For a list of recent grants, visit [http://treelink.org/nucfac/nf\\_active.htm](http://treelink.org/nucfac/nf_active.htm) .

-Since 2003, the President and First Lady of the United States have selected four ***Preserve America Presidential Award*** winners to receive national recognition for outstanding achievements in sustainable historic preservation. This year's nomination process is now open, with a November 1, 2005 deadline for submitting nominations.

Past recipients of the *Preserve America* Presidential Award include the **Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative** in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia and the **Lackawanna Heritage Valley** in Pennsylvania.

While the awards are the highest Federal honor given for historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts, and the presentations are made at a White House ceremony, all nominations for come from the grassroots level. The *Preserve America* Presidential Awards are part of a White House initiative to celebrate and preserve our Nation's cultural and natural heritage assets. Cultural and natural assets are defined as physical places, natural and man-made, that are associated with themes, events, sites, or persons significant in the history of the United States and its territories. Recipients are chosen through a national competition administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Transportation; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality; in cooperation with the Executive Office of the President.



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Detailed information on the program, including nomination forms, instructions, and profiles of past winners, is available at <http://www.PreserveAmerica.gov>

## ● Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

-The **U.S. Cultural & Heritage Tourism Summit** will take place in Washington, DC October 6-8. The summit is limited to 350 attendees, 150 of which will be state delegates chosen by the governor. The summit will include of a number of sessions with attention given throughout to how to advance a national tourism agenda. Participants will leave having discussed a series of “next steps” to implement within their respective agencies and organizations. The Cultural & Heritage Tourism White Paper, first produced in 1995, will be revised to reflect the changing tourism environment. For more information on the Summit, visit <http://www.uscht.com>

## ● Publications and Resources

-A new national heritage area management plan is on the National Park Service History website: view the 1997 management plan for the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley NHC at [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nhc/quinebaug.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nhc/quinebaug.htm)

## ● Other News

-45 new America’s Byways were designated this month. The designation event, which occurs every two years, follows a multiple-panel review process of every nomination package submitted, and designees are announced at an event in Washington all at once. Following designation, the new members of the byways family are treated to a day-long, hands-on workshop on what it means to be a National Scenic Byway and how to maximize the benefits of the designation. Attendees to the Washington event are given opportunities to meet one-on-one with staff from established byways, the Byways Resource Center in Deluth, MN and the Washington office. For a list of the new Byways, visit <http://www.byways.org>



## ● For more information on heritage areas, visit our [website](#).

-If you have heritage area news to share with the 650+ readers who receive this e-bulletin, please feel free to send it to the editor.

**Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.**

- Reach the editor at [suzanne\\_copping@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov)
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- Past issues available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/rep/bb.htm>
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